

From: drupal_admin@epa.gov On Behalf Of (b) (6) via EPA
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2016 11:14:14 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Zhen, Davis
Subject: Harbor Comments

Submitted on 06/12/2016 2:14PM
Submitted values are:

Your Name: (b) (6)

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Your Comments:

I was very pleased to see that the evaluation of the Portland Harbor Superfund site has made it to the draft plan stage. I appreciate the amount of work it has taken to evaluate all of the data and arrive at recommendations, and I wish to comment as follows:

I spent the larger part of my professional career involved with public works issues, including working to fund and build water treatment facilities on the Willamette River. The economic burden on the (b) (6) was and still is, very large; and yet, we met our responsibilities under the Clean Water Act and our M.A.O with DEQ to greatly reduce wet weather overflows and the general quality of our discharges to the river.

It is disheartening to see that the same level of responsibility is not being applied to the superfund site cleanup. While I appreciate that there is environmental danger in dredging and stirring up old sediments, in my professional opinion, many of the constituent chemicals present in the harbor sediments present a clear danger to both humans and the riverlife and cannot be safely monitored on site while we await some very, very slow process of degradation. Better a short-term hazard during the removal process than a long, slow leaching process that will not end in our lifetimes.

I urge the Administrator to revisit the analysis and the hazards matrix and revise the draft plan to better address the real needs of the river and the citizens of Portland and give them priority over the economic costs to the corporations and successor entities which bear the responsibility for creating the problem.

Thank you,

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